

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 3862

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, NZ, TW
SUBJECT: TAIWAN FISHING OPERATIONS, NEW ZEALAND AREA AND TROPICAL
SOUTH PACIFIC

REF: (A) HONG KONG 6932, (B) HONG KONG 7402

1. TAIWANESE FISHING OPERATIONS IN AREA OF NEW ZEALAND
APPEAR AIMED MOSTLY AT SQUID. A FLEET OF 11 SQUID VESSELS
NORMALLY FISHES IN NEW ZEALAND OFFSHORE WATERS FROM NOVEMBER
THROUGH MAY, THEN MOVES NORTH FOR THE SUMMER. CATCH DURING
NOVEMBER-MAY SEASON JUST COMPLETED WAS REPORTEDLY ABOUT
2,000 METRIC TONS, VALUED AT NT\$120,000,000 (US\$3,158,000),
AND CAME PREDOMINANTLY FROM WHAT PRESUMABLY WILL BECOME
PART OF NEW ZEALAND 200-MILE ZONE. THE 11 VESSELS ARE:
A) SHANYI, B) SANYI 6, C) SHINHAI 11, D) SHINHAI 12,
E) YITASHENG 12, F) SHENGPAO 27, G) SHENPAO 30, H) JONGCHUNG,
I) JONGKUANG, J) KINGNAN, K) CHUNGSHAO.

2. GROC HAS BEEN INSISTING FOR SOME TIME THAT INSTITU-
TION OF 200-MILE ZONE BY NEW ZEALAND WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT
ONLY SQUID FISHING EFFORT, NOT TUNA LONG-LINE OR TRAWLER
OPERATIONS, WHICH ARE SAID NOT TO INVOLVE THE NEW ZEALAND
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AREA. HOWEVER, EFFECT OF NEW ZEALAND DECLARATION ON
ROC SQUID FISHING INDUSTRY ALONE, IF ACCOMPANIED BY SIGNIFI-
CANT RESTRICTIONS, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE MAGNIFIED BY
IMPLEMENTATION OF USSR 200-MILE ZONE RESTRICTIONS IN AREAS
WHERE MUCH OF THE SUMMER SQUID CATCH IS TAKEN.

3. TUNA LONG-LINER CATCH BY ROC FLEET BASED SAMOA, FIJI,

AND ESPIRITU SANTO WAS REPORTEDLY 8,491 MT FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1977. WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT CATCH FROM THIS SOURCE AMOUNTS TO 8 1/2 PERCENT OF THE ROC'S WORLD-WIDE DEEP-SEA CATCH FOR ALL SPECIES, AND WAS ABOUT 85 PERCENT TUNA. THE AREA COVERED FROM THESE BASES IS ROUGHLY COINCIDENT WITH THE TROPICAL SOUTH PACIFIC AREA DESCRIBED REFTEL. TRAWLER OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA ACCOUNT FOR ANOTHER 18,627 MT, OR 30.7 PERCENT OF THE ROC'S DEEP-SEA TRAWLER CATCH.

4. GROC IS REPORTED CURRENTLY USING GOVERNMENT FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL HAI KUNG TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL OF NEW ZEALAND OFFSHORE WATERS IN SPECIES OTHER THAN SQUID. THE HAI KUNG RECENTLY MADE A SUCCESSFUL FORAY FROM SOUTH AFRICA INTO ANTARCTIC WATERS TO ASSESS KRILL-FISHING PROSPECTS AND REQUIREMENTS.

5. REQUEST THAT NEW ZEALAND COMMISSION NOT REVEAL SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH TAIWANESE FISHING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES.

6. REGRET DELAY, BUT SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT MATTER PRECLUDED EITHER INFORMING GROC WHY WE WERE REQUESTING DATA OR CONVEYING SENSE OF URGENCY.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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